

574 any expectation of payment. Being almost destitute of tobacco
609 for our journey, he gave us some of their own manufacture. As
that herb is not yet arrived at maturity, they use only the blossoms
● 277 [402] at present. These are collected as required, dried before
the fire on a fragment of an earthen pot, and smoked by all the
natives. But I find the flowers a very poor substitute for our own
tobacco—a nauseous, insipid weed. The ripe leaf is somewhat
better, but even that is mere trash, possessed of neither strength
nor virtue.

648 [403] We soon after took the road, bidding a final adieu to
[491] the Mandanes. The road through the wood was very muddy and bad.
[137] We found amazing quantities of piores, perfectly ripe. The
natives here are so surrounded by their different enemies at all
seasons, and particularly when the fruit is ripe, that the women dare
not leave the villages to gather it, though there is a great plenty
of chokecherries, cerises, etc. Even when they go out to hoe their
corn, young men, well armed, keep on the rounds at short dis-
tances from the women to prevent surprise from an enemy. This
is a necessary precaution, as they have frequently been attacked
while working in the fields. The village on the N. side lies under
a double disadvantage, surrounded by thick woods for nearly two
miles upon the land side, and having close by a vast quantity of
young sprouts and brushwood, enabling an enemy to approach very
near without being discovered. A single Sioux has been known to
secrete himself for several days among those bushes until a favorable
opportunity has offered, when he has dispatched a Mandane, and
got away with the scalp.

[p. 384 [I]]